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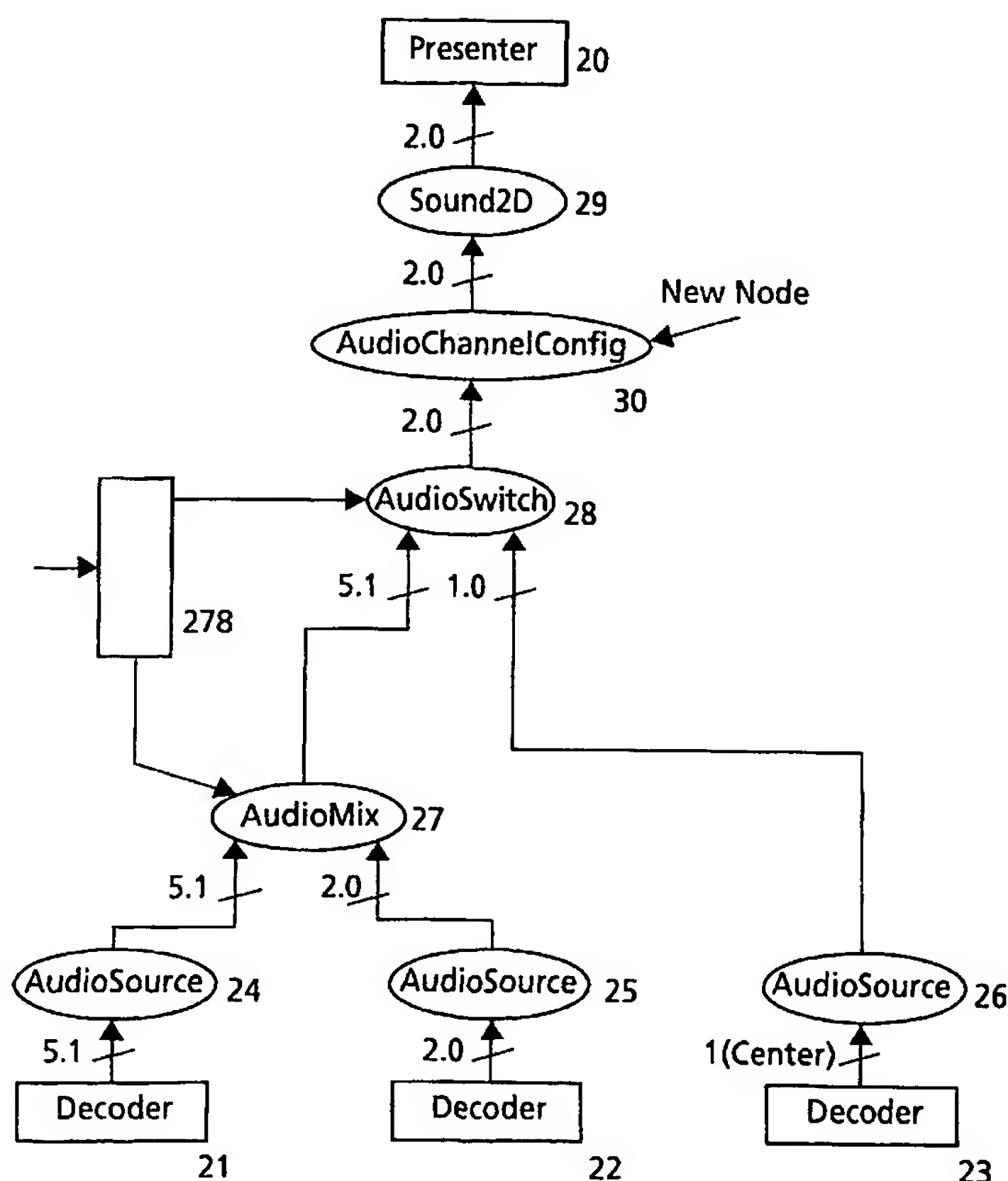
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING TWO OR MORE INITIALLY DECODED AUDIO SIGNALS RECEIVED OR REPLAYED FROM A BITSTREAM

(57) Abstract: In the MPEG-4 standard ISO/IEC 14496:2001 several audio objects that can be coded with different MPEG-4 format coding types can together form a composed audio system representing a single soundtrack from the several audio substreams. In a receiver the multiple audio objects are decoded separately, but not directly played back to a listener. Instead, transmitted instructions for mixdown are used to prepare a single soundtrack. Mixdown conflicts can occur in case the audio signals to be combined have different channel numbers or configurations. According to the invention an additional audio channel configuration node is used that tags the correct channel configuration information items to the decoded audio data streams to be presented. The invention enables the content provider to set the channel configuration in such a way that the presenter at receiver side can produce a correct channel presentation under all circumstances. An escape code value in the channel configuration data facilitates correct handling of not yet defined channel combinations.

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